



**Department of
Agriculture and Markets**

CART/ESART Orientation

Adaptation of Online Training through
University of Albany, School of Public Health

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When did SARTs begin?

- Several states have established State Animal Response Teams (SART).
- The first SART was developed in North Carolina in response to Hurricane Floyd in 1999.
 - In the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, there was an estimated \$13 million in livestock damage and more than 3 million domestic and farm animals were killed.
- The SART concept was adopted in 2004 in NYS
 - The [Empire State Animal Response Team](#) (ESART) was created through a private-public partnership to serve as a unifying network of organizations, businesses, government agencies, and individuals that supports the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from emergencies affecting animals in New York State.

What does a SART do?

- SARTs work with the State Emergency Management Office to:
 - Plan, prepare for and assist in aspects of animal disaster response
 - Coordinate available resources across the state
 - Oversee aspects of disaster response and coordinate available resources across the state.
 - In most states, SARTs facilitate the development, recruiting and training of County Animal Response Teams (CART)
 - States that do not have developed CARTs or RARTs may use their SARTs to respond to animal emergencies.

What does ESART do in NY?

- In NYS, [ESART](#) provides assistance to county emergency managers for:
 - Animal disaster planning
 - CART development
 - Training opportunities for CART volunteers.
- The ESART may be activated to assist in identifying and obtaining additional resources to meet the needs of the counties when a CART is overwhelmed or when specialized resources are needed.
- In addition, ESART may lend assistance to another state that experiences a disaster and needs help in responding.



Who is involved in ESART

- SART is a statewide organizational structure made up of a network of government and private organizations, businesses, and individuals.
 - Government agencies such as state agriculture departments and emergency management and response agencies play a crucial role.
 - Private agencies may include animal rescue groups, veterinary societies, and animal charities.
- ESART includes:
 - NYS Ag and Markets
 - USDA
 - NYS DHSES
 - ASPCA
 - NYSVMS
 - CCE
 - Cornell AHDC



How is SART organized

- SARTs use the Incident Command System (ICS) as a management tool to coordinate and communicate with responders and resources in the event of an emergency.
 - ICS is a part of the National Incident Management System and its adoption is required to receive federal assistance.
- Responders include CART members who can assist in animal rescue, sheltering, and evacuation. Resources may include food and water, medical care supplies for animals, veterinary care personnel, and temporary animal shelters.

Hazards

- The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) defines "hazards" as "conditions or situations that have the potential for causing harm to people, property, or the environment." They classify hazards as:
 - Natural (e.g., tornadoes or earthquakes)
 - Intentional (e.g., terrorism or civil disturbance)
 - Technological (e.g., failure of the power grid or hazardous materials spills)
- Emergencies may occur because of any of these hazards.



What types of emergencies would a SART respond to?

"Any animal, any disaster, anywhere."*

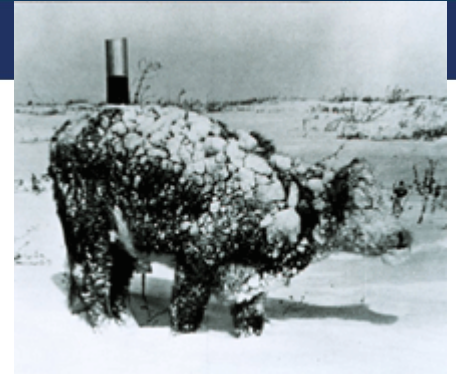
A SART may respond to animals affected by all types of emergencies.

These could include:

- Natural disasters
- Disease outbreaks
- Intentional attacks
- Other emergencies



Natural Disasters



- Natural disasters may affect both humans and animals. Examples include:

- Floods
- Tornadoes and hurricanes
- Wind storms
- Earthquakes
- Heat waves
- Ice storms
- Snow storms
- Tropical storms.

These types of emergencies may displace, injure, or kill animals.

- For example, in January 2007, bales of hay were airlifted to cattle that were stranded in a severe snowstorm in Colorado. The Colorado Department of Agriculture estimated that as many as 10,000 cattle died from starvation and stress. In this case, local farmers suffered a great loss in revenue.
- In 1997, 30,000 cattle died in a similar storm in Colorado.



Question?

- After a severe rainstorm, several areas in your county are in danger of flooding. Communities in the affected areas are asked to evacuate their homes. Some families are not able to take their pet dogs and cats with them to emergency shelters.

What types of problems can this lead to?

Disease Outbreaks

- Outbreaks of disease can have a great impact on animal populations. They may weaken animals, cause severe deformities or may even cause them to die. Diseases that are contagious or spread quickly among animal populations are of great concern.

For instance, a large commercial poultry farm has a large number of birds die suddenly. The Department of Agriculture thinks that the birds may have Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND), a highly contagious and fatal disease that affects birds. The local CART may be contacted by emergency management to support efforts of State Agriculture Officials and the SART, by disseminating information to the public and identifying local available resources.



Question?

- Can you think of any other diseases that may cause an animal related emergency?

Intentional attacks

Intentional attacks may be used to incapacitate political, economic or social structures or systems. Attacks may be directed toward animals or other points of interest--and these intentional attacks can have an indirect effect on animals.

Examples of intentional attacks on animals include:

- conventional (guns, explosives, etc.)
- biological (diseases caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria or fungi)
- chemical
- nuclear or radiological

For example, in the aftermath of an intentional attack on a chemical plant, many livestock from nearby farms may be dead or injured. Emergency response teams are on the scene attending to human injuries and fatalities. The local CART team may be called upon to deal with injured and dead animals. It may require assistance from other CARTs or the State Animal Response Team.

Other Emergencies

- There are other types of events or emergencies that may affect many animals at once. These might include traffic accidents, chemical spills, explosions, fires, and building collapses.
- Like natural disasters, these events may displace, injure or even kill animals.

Question?

- A trailer transporting horses to a local racetrack is involved in a multiple car accident on a major highway. Several horses have been injured, and some are wandering near the scene of the accident toward oncoming traffic. A local CART is asked to respond.
- What are some things they would be likely to help with?

Emergency Planning for Animals

- As we have seen, there are many types of emergencies that may affect animals. Therefore, it is important to plan for these various emergencies in order to minimize the impact that they may have on animals.
- This planning will also minimize the impact on the agricultural economy.
- In 2002 alone, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, the total value of livestock, poultry, and their products sold was over \$105 billion.

Why is this important?

- Pets are a major reason that people do not evacuate during an emergency and a leading reason that they return before it is declared safe. Planning for animal welfare is planning for human welfare.
- Federal requirements to plan for pets:
 - The Pets Evacuation Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act) requires that state and local emergency operations plan address the needs of individuals with pets and service animals, as well as the needs of the animals themselves.
 - Several states, including New York and Louisiana, have recently enacted legislation requiring that pets be addressed in state and local plans.

Question:

Why is it important to plan for animals?

- People love their pets. Can you think of a situation where someone may sacrifice his/her own safety to save a companion animal?

Question?

- SARTs not only respond to emergencies but also are involved in planning for them. SARTs and CARTs are often invited to assist in all-hazards disaster planning by emergency management officials. They are often included in these plans as a resource for animal disaster response needs.
- What topics do you think might be important in an emergency plan for animals?

SART planning partners

Partners might include federal, state and local agencies. Each partner can bring different experiences, knowledge and lessons learned to the planning.

- Animal Organizations such as:

- Local SPCAs
- Humane societies
- Rescue groups
- Government operated animal control agencies
- National animal welfare organizations
 - American Humane Association, ASPCA
 - Humane Society of the U.S.

- Other organizations:

- Extension offices
- Farm Bureaus
- Health departments
- Fire and rescue providers
- Local businesses
- Veterinary hospitals
- American Red Cross (ARC)*

*While the American Red Cross does not provide shelters for animals other than service animals, involving the ARC in planning can improve coordination between human and animal shelters.

Emergency Response at the Local Level

- Even though state or federal agencies may become involved, an emergency ultimately begins and ends with local response teams. In this section, you will learn about:
 - CART mission and goals
 - How CARTs respond before, during and after animal emergencies
 - CART emergency plans
 - Different types of CART volunteers and response partners
 - How to become a CART volunteer
 - The components of the Code of Conduct

Question?

- It is late January and severe winter storms are well known in your area. The weather report forecasts a winter storm with snow and ice coming toward your county. Long-range forecasts call for a warming trend after the ice storm with rain and flooding possible. The local emergency management office is on alert and is aware that there is the possibility that, if evacuations are necessary, animals will be affected as well.
- What agencies are most likely to be called to respond to this local emergency?

What is a CART?

- CARTs are often organized at the county or community level. CARTs are involved in responding to local emergencies that involve animals.
- CARTs will have different capabilities based on where they are located and the type of animals and hazards that they are likely to face in their communities. The capabilities of the CART may also depend on the political climate and structure, the available resources and expertise in their community.
- If a CART is unable to respond adequately to an emergency, a neighboring CART or members of SART may assist. A CART may also work with other response agencies such as EMS or Animal Control.

CART mission and goals

- A CART's primary mission is responding to animals in danger. Some goals of a CART are to:
 - Minimize loss of human and animal life
 - Minimize economic impact of disaster
 - Prevent or mitigate spread of disease
 - Provide rescue and shelter for animals
 - Reunite animals with their owners.
- To meet these goals, CART members may help before, during and after emergencies.

What do CARTS do before an emergency?

- CART volunteers help their communities prepare for disasters before they happen. Disaster preparedness includes:
 - Preparing and distributing educational materials to the public
 - Writing disaster plans
 - Identifying and procuring resources needed for response
 - Conducting emergency drills and exercises
 - Participating in animal rescue training
 - Participating in Emergency Animal Sheltering training
- Preparing for a disaster before it strikes helps minimize the impact it may have on animals.

Educational Materials

- CARTs may develop and distribute educational materials that help the public take charge of their safety and the safety of their animals during an emergency. These materials may include information about how to care for animals during a disaster or locate lost pets after a disaster.
- CART volunteers may also work with other agencies to educate the public on disaster preparedness strategies. ASPCA and American Humane Association have emergency preparedness materials that may be used by a CART or SART.

Question?

- Many communities have plans for different types of emergencies that may affect its residents. More recently, state and local agencies have started to develop plans for emergencies that may affect animals and their owners. Some CART volunteers may work with their county emergency manager to write a disaster plan for animals in their county. CARTs also develop their own animal rescue plan, which can then be incorporated into the county's emergency plan.
- There are many components of an emergency plan for animals. Can you think of some of these?

Pet-Friendly shelters

- The objective of animal sheltering is to establish temporary shelters for pets when a community is forced to evacuate because of an emergency.
- **Temporary emergency animal shelters (TEAS)**
May include owned animals belonging to evacuated people, stray and rescued domestic animals, or animals from an evacuated animal facility. These evacuated animal facilities could be an animal shelter, pet store, or veterinary hospital
- **Host shelters**
Host shelters are permanent animal shelters (such as an SPCA shelter). They are operated by the staff already in place and are sometimes supplemented by volunteers or staff from the affected shelter
- **Pet-friendly shelters (or Congregate Household Pet Shelters)**
Pet-friendly shelters are usually set up in the same location (room, facility, or campus) as a human shelter. This allows the animal owners to have a large role in caring for their pet(s).

Drills and Exercises

- Emergency exercises, such as drills provide an opportunity to test and evaluate animal emergency response plans. In addition to training, exercises help CART volunteers gain field experience in specific skills, such as animal rescue.
- Different formats are used depending upon the needs of the CART volunteers, as well as the time and money available to support the exercise. Options Include:
 - Seminars, workshops
 - Drills
 - Tabletops
 - Functional Exercises
 - Full scale exercise

Other activities before a disaster

- CARTs may also work with other local agencies in sponsoring activities which may be helpful in disaster situations.
- An example includes: Microchipping clinics
 - Owners voluntarily have their animals chipped, it can greatly increase the odds of that animal being successfully reunited with its owner after a disaster.
 - Microchips can help reunite animals and their owners if the animal becomes lost or strayed.
 - These clinics also provide the CART with an excellent venue to provide preparedness information to animal owners and to recruit new volunteers.

How do CART volunteers help during a disaster?

- During a disaster, there are many duties that CART volunteers may assist with, including:
 - Animal rescue and sheltering
 - Medical care for injured animals
 - Communication with other agencies
 - Record keeping
 - Animal intake
 - Clean up
 - Pet transportation
 - Facilitating owner and pet reunification
 - Volunteer Management
 - Logistics Management

Question?

- Some CART tasks during an emergency involve direct work with animals. What tasks might involve direct contact with animals during an emergency?

Other tasks during an emergency

- In addition to directly assisting animals, there are a number of other tasks that need to be done during an emergency.
- CART volunteers may need to coordinate, communicate, and cooperate with other agencies.
- Accurate record keeping is also important in any emergency.
 - accurate records may help support the county's request for Federal assistance.
 - help a CART prevent mistakes and help prepare it for the next emergency during an after-action review.
 - Animals with and without identification need to be tracked so that they can be reunited with their owners.
 - The CART must establish procedures for resource management, animal tracking, and for sign-in to account for volunteers at the scene.

How do CART volunteers help after a disaster?

- After the emergency has passed, volunteers may still be needed. CART volunteers may assist in:
 - [Clean up](#)
 - Disasters are messy. Many volunteers are needed to clean up waste and debris.
 - [Carcass removal and disposal](#)
 - Carcass disposal may be part of clean up in some situations.
 - [Reuniting lost animals with their owners](#)
 - After a disaster, many animal owners will return to claim their lost animals. Although animal owners are advised to take their animals with them, this is not always possible. When animals have identification (e.g., microchip, name tag), reuniting them with their owners is not difficult.
- [Continued animal care](#)

CART Response Partners

- Because CARTs follow ICS, the same system that emergency management uses, CARTs are well integrated into the system for emergency response. Since most emergencies affect both animals and people, a CART may work alongside other response agencies during an emergency. Some examples of response agencies include:
 - State agencies: NYS Police, DOT, DEC
 - Local agencies: municipal police, county sheriff, local FD
 - National Guard
 - Urban Search and Rescue Team
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Public Works
 - Utility companies
 - Other volunteer organizations (e.g. American Red Cross)

Who are CART Volunteers?

- CARTs are entirely staffed by volunteers. CART volunteers come from many local community agencies such as county government and non-profit organizations. In addition, concerned citizens and others who wish to assist in the planning for, responding to and recovery from any animal emergency may volunteer as CART members.
 - Veterinarians, veterinary technicians,
 - Fire and emergency medical service (EMS) workers
 - Animal control agencies
 - Kennel and pet groups
 - Humane society staff
 - Cooperative Extension
 - Zoo and wildlife agencies
 - Animal rescue groups
 - Pet shops, groomers, boarding facilities



What types of volunteers is a CART looking for?

- Disaster response requires volunteers with a wide range of skills and experience. Therefore, CARTs need all types of volunteers. Because a CART responds to many different kinds of disasters that affect animals, it needs to fill many roles to prepare, respond, and recover. Most importantly, SART and CART volunteers should have a strong desire to help animals in need.

Steps in becoming a CART volunteer

- All CART volunteers must be trained before they can be activated during an emergency. In addition to an orientation such as this course, basic training might include:
 - **ESART Orientation** –
 - **Incident Command System 100** –
 - online at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100a.asp>
 - **National Incident Management System 700** –
 - online at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700.asp>
 - **Hazmat Awareness** –
 - online at <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-5.a>
 - **Code of Conduct** –
 - online at <http://www.empiresart.com/pdfs/Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>



Additional Training

- SART and its affiliated organizations make technical and specialized training available to CART volunteers as well. Some examples of specialized training include:
 - Emergency sheltering
 - Technical rescue/recovery
 - Large animal rescue
 - Pet first aid
 - Foreign animal disease training
- The initial training ensures that all CART volunteers have a base of knowledge to draw on when responding to an emergency. Ongoing participation in training and exercises ensures that CART volunteers develop specific skills and knowledge needed to respond to emergencies involving animals.

Code of Conduct

- CART volunteers work as a team. When a CART is deployed, all volunteers must adhere to a code of conduct. This ensures that the CART is effective, organized and efficient. It also allows the CART to provide a well-coordinated response.
 - [Maintain a professional manner and appearance when conducting any activities related to ESART or CART.](#)
 - [Identify duties that are beyond their capabilities or training.](#)
 - Carry professional credentials and wear current ESART identification during activation.
 - [Accept and carry out orders and assignments from the ICS commander at the scene.](#)
 - [Not participate in operations that serve to promote personal gains, ideologies, or individual organizations.](#)

Question?

- Susan is a new CART volunteer. She belongs to an animal rescue group. Her CART team is called to help with an animal hoarding case. The team must remove a large number of animals, and some may have to be euthanized because of the severity of their condition. Susan's rescue group has a no-kill policy, and she feels uncomfortable with what she is being asked to do.
- Should Susan continue to work with her team, knowing that her assignment may be in conflict with her personal beliefs? Why or why not?



When/How is CART activated?

- When the emergency plan is activated by the local emergency management office, a CART may be called to help. A CART team is activated after the county emergency manager contacts the CART Coordinator. The CART Coordinator then activates the CART team. It is important to understand that CARTs are not self-deployed—they must be invited to respond to an emergency by local emergency management.



Question?

- During a severe snowstorm, a CART volunteer watching the news sees that a nearby county is experiencing heavy snowfall and several cows are stranded. He knows the area and is trained in large animal rescue. He hasn't heard from his CART coordinator.
- What would be the best thing(s) for him to do?
 - Rush out to the scene immediately
 - Wait to hear from his CART coordinator
 - Stay informed by watching the news and getting equipment ready just in case
 - Contact the local emergency management office to see if they need help?



Question?

- A CART is called to help manage an animal emergency after a tornado. Several volunteers arrive at the scene where a barn has collapsed and several animals are trapped. Another barn has been damaged by the wind and is in danger of collapsing. In addition, stray animals are wandering around the scene, posing a threat to themselves and the CART volunteers.
- Without proper management of the incident, what do you think could happen?

What is ICS?

- ICS is a management model for *command, control, and coordination* of an organization's emergency response activities. It was developed by FIRESCOPE*, a local, state, and federal task force, in the 1970's in response to rapidly moving wildfires in Southern California. FIRESCOPE recognized the need for a single system for managing emergencies.
- ICS uses a defined management structure with:
 - Defined responsibilities
 - Clear reporting channels
 - Common terms
 - Span of control



Why use ICS?

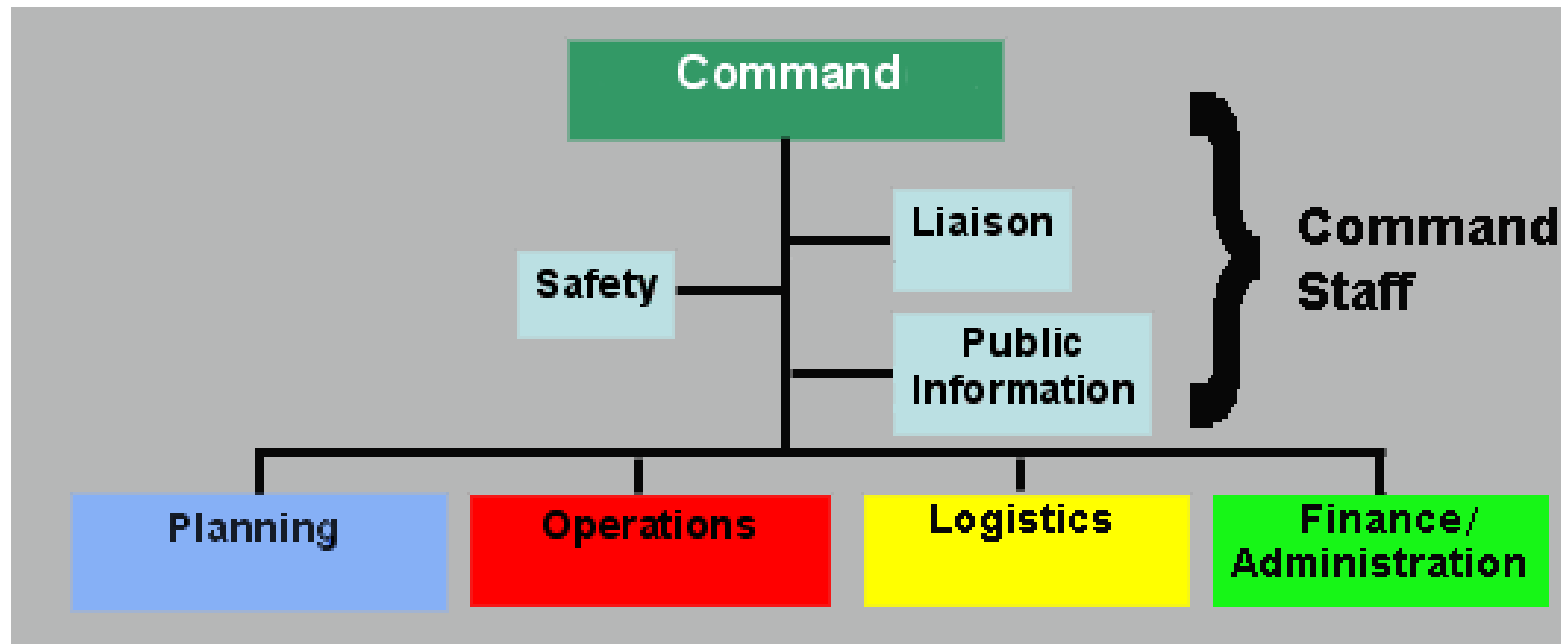
- When many agencies respond to the same emergency, it is easier if they all use the same system. Because a CART is often working in partnership with other emergency agencies, it is useful for all of them to use ICS. ICS is part of a comprehensive national framework for incident management known as the National Incident Management System, or NIMS.

What is NIMS?

- The National Incident Management System is a core set of doctrines, principles, terminology, and organizational processes. These were developed by the Department of Homeland Security to be used in planning and response to any emergency event on the local, regional, state or national levels. This consistent nationwide approach allows "Federal, State and local governments to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents of any size, cause or complexity."

ICS organization

- The organization of ICS centers around five major management sections: command, operations, planning, logistics, and administration/finance.



How CARTs use ICS

- When there is a local response to an emergency, an Incident Commander is designated. The Incident Commander decides which sections of the ICS need to be activated. Not every disaster requires all ICS sections.
- A CART may designate roles and responsibilities and may communicate using ICS. CART volunteers may perform one or more emergency functional roles determined by the Incident Commander. CART coordinators will match the volunteers' emergency roles to their skills. The volunteer should be aware of and trained in their possible roles before the incident occurs. Brief training may also be needed at the scene.

Example Scenario

- The Jones family is visiting their elderly relatives in your county. They call the local animal shelter to report that a very large number of animals are living at their relative's house. A preliminary visit to the property by the local animal control finds over 50 dogs and cats living inside the house and outside on the property. The animals are in very poor health and need to be removed. Many of the animals need immediate medical treatment. Your CART is called to help.
- Let's take a look how each ICS section would operate in response to this incident.

Command Staff

- The command section of ICS includes:

- Incident Commander:

- person in charge of dealing with the incident. The IC directs the response activities during the emergency and works with the Command Staff during a large event

- Safety Officer:

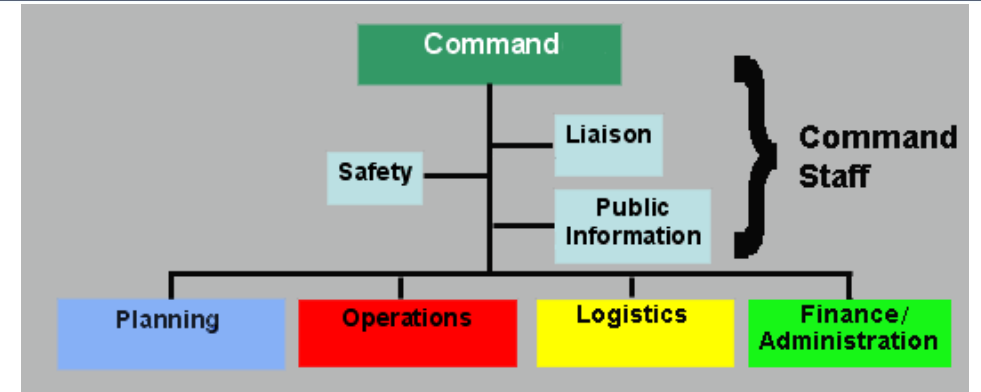
- controls the safety of field operations, monitors safety conditions, and develops measures for ensuring the safety of all assigned personnel.

- Liaison Officer:

- the point of contact for representatives of other agencies
 - authority to speak for their parent agencies and/or organizations on all matters, with appropriate consultations with their agency leadership
 - Assists in establishing and coordinating interagency contacts
 - the span of control is not exceeded.

- Public Information Officer

- incident spokesperson



In this example

- Incident commander:
 - Developing incident objectives which help to guide and direct strategies and resources
 - Deciding what sections of ICS need to be activated
 - Authorizing supplies and equipment needed for the response
 - Assigning roles to volunteers
- Safety Officer:
 - Ensure that the volunteers have appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks before they go into the scene
 - Making sure that volunteers handling animals are properly trained in animal handling techniques and are up to date on their vaccinations (e.g., tetanus).
- Liaison Officer:
 - Working with animal control officers and volunteers from the local humane society.
- Public Information Officer:

Additional Sections

- Planning - planning before, during and after an emergency.
 - gathering and distributing information that is important for management of the emergency.
- Operations - achieve the objectives of the Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- Logistics - supporting the people who are directly responding to the emergency.
 - Support and Service branches
- Administration & Finance - administrative aspects of emergency response

In this Example

- Planning
 - Identify and track physical and human resources
 - Develop an incident action plan that specifies the objectives and strategies for managing an incident
 - Create situation reports and maintain documentation of the incident
 - Create and manage a planning clock to establish what activities will happen when and to keep the response on schedule
 - Enlist specialists for assistance

In this Example

- **Operations:**
 - **Field operations** such as assessing the emergency, requesting resources, and identifying health and safety issues
 - **Rescue** of lost, evacuated, or injured animals
 - **Sheltering** issues such as assessing needs, developing temporary animal shelters, feeding and caring for animals, and identifying and documenting animals
 - **Veterinary services** related to animal care and medical treatment



In this Example

- Logistics:
 - The Support branch is in charge of obtaining necessary supplies and identifying and coordinating facilities and transportation for personnel.
 - The Service branch is in charge of establishing and maintaining communication equipment, maintaining security, arranging medical care for response personnel, and securing food and water for response personnel and animals.

In this Example

- Finance and Administration
 - Time cards if needed
 - Contracts
 - Claims
 - Insurance
 - Donations
 - Tracking costs

Thank you for completing the Introduction to
State Animal Response Teams
Empire State Animal Response Teams
County Animal Response Teams